

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 MCT-01 HA-05  
/070 W

-----115837 180813Z /23

R 161715Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6596

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAUGA 2250

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, NU

SUBJECT: PRO-SOMOZA REGIME TERRORISTS?

REF: A) WELTER-MARTIN TELCON OF MAY 12, B) 77 MANAGUA A-65,  
C) MANAGUA 359, D) MANAGUA A-22, E) MANAGUA 2068,  
F) MANAGUA 2233

BEGIN SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN ROMOR FOR OVER  
A YEAR OF THE EXISTENCE OF A PRO-REGIME TERRORIST ORGANIZATION,  
THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE INDICATION THAT SUCH AN ORGANIZATION  
ACTUALLY EXISTS. HOWEVER, SINCE THE ASSASSINATION OF PEDRO  
JOAQUIN CHAMORRO, THERE HAS BEEN INCREASED INDICATION OF  
ANTI-OPPOSITION AS WELL AS ANTI-REGIME THREATS AND VIOLENCE.  
THE PREVAILING PUBLIC BELIEF IS THAT ANTI-OPPOSITION THREATS  
AND VIOLENCE IS THE WORK OF CLANDESTINE PRO-SOMOZA TERRORISTS  
DESCRIBED AS A WHITE HAND-TYPE ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FIRST CLAIM THAT A WHITE HAND, TERRORIST ORGANIZATION  
MIGHT EXIST SURFACED IN MAY 1977 (REF B). AT THAT TIME  
A PRO-SOMOZA ACTIVIST MADE A HIGHLY EMOTIONAL ATTACK  
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ON SOME CATHOLIC PRIESTS AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING  
REVOLUTION TO THE COUNTRYJS YOUTH. HE SAID THESE PRIESTS  
SHOULD BE ELIMINATED, AND THE OPPOSITION READ INTO THIS THE  
THREAT OF A PRO-REGIME TERRORIST GROUP. THE FNMOR AROUSED  
BY THIS INCIDENT EVAPORATED VERY QUICKLY AFTER AN OUTPOURING  
OF SUPPORT FROM ALL SECTORS FOR THE CHURCH.

2. NOTHING WAS HEARD OF A WHITE HAND GROUP AGAIN UNTIL AFTER THE CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION IN JANUARY. DURING THE ENSUING POLITICAL TURBULENCE, EXPECIALLY THE TWO-WEEK NATIONAL WORK STOPPAGE, THERE WAS A TWO-SIDED CAMPAIGN OF THREATS. ENTERPRISES RECEIVED ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS THREATENING BOMBING OR ARSON IF THEY DID NOT CLOSE AND SOME RECEIVED THREATS THAT REPRISALS WOULD BE TAKEN IF THEY DID CLOSE (REF C). PEOPLE GENERALY ASCRIBED THE PRESSURE TO NOT JOIN THE STRIKE TO THE GON OR IN SOME CASES TO A WHITE HAND-TYPE ORGANIZATION. THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF ANY ACTUAL ANTI-OPPOSITION VIOLENCE DURING THIS PERIOD.

3. DURING THE PURSUANT PERIOD OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND DISTURBANCES, THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS INSTANCES OF PRO-GON CIVILIANS SHOOTING AT ANTI-GON CIVILIANS. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE IN MOST OF THESE CASES, THOSE SHOOTING APPEARED TO BE DEFENDING THEMSELVES OR THEIR HOUSES FROM DEMONSTRATORS. HOWEVER, IN THESE CASES THE PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE SHOOTING HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED VARIOUSLY AS GON INFORMERS ("OREJAS"), MEMBERS OF THE PARA-MILITARY RESERVE ASSOCIATION AMROC (REF D) OR MEMBERS OF A WHITE HAND ORGANIZATION.

4. MOST RECENTLY, IN MANAGUA THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INCIDENTS DURING THE NIGHT OF SHOTS FIRED AT BUILDINGS IDENTIFIED AS ANTI-GON. THE PLANT OF OPPOSITION NEWSPAER LA PRENSA WAS SHOT AT ONCE, THE CAMPUS OF THE NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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UNIVERSITY WAS FIRED ON ONCE, AND THE BUILDING OF RADIO MI PREFERIDA WAS FIRED ON TWICE AND A BOMB WAS EXPLODED NEARBY ONCE. THERE WERE NO PERSONAL INJURIES AS A RESULT OF ANY OF THESE INCIDENTS. IN EACH OF THESE FOUR CASES THERE WERE REPORTS OF A RED CAR SEEN IN THE AREA WHICH HAS LED TO THE BELIEF THAT THE CASES ARE RELATED AND THE WORK OF PRO-REGIME TERRORISTS (REF E). THE LAST OF THESE INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO.

5. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE ARE PRO-REGIME INDIVIDUALS PREPARED TO USE WEAPONS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES OR ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE ANTI-REGIME GROUPS OR INSTITUTIONS. HOWEVER, THE CASES IN WHICH THIS APPEARS TO HAVE HAPPENED HAVE BEEN SO SPARSE AND THE INFORMATION SO FRAGMENTARY THAT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THERE IS ANY SIGNIFICANT CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION FORMED FOR THIS PURPOSE. NEVERTHELESS, DESITE LACK OF ANY SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE OF A WHITE HAND ORGANIZATION, THERE LIKELY WILL BE INCREASING INSTANCES OF ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN FUTURE ACTS OF VIOLENCE, SUCH AS THE RECENT ASSASSINATION OF PEDRO JOSE CHAMORRO (REF F), IN TERMS OF SUCH AN ORGANIZATION.

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## Message Attributes

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